

# MOT

Old trees are more *moſſy* far than young; for that the ſap is not ſo frank as to riſe all to the boughs, but tireth by the way, and putteth out moſs. *Bacon's Nat. Hiſt.*

The *moſſy* fountains and the Sylvan ſhades Delight no more. *Pope's Meſſiah.*

**MOST.** *adj.* the ſuperlative of *more*. [*mæte*, Saxon; *meſt*, Dutch.] Conſiſting of the greateſt number; conſiſting of the greateſt quantity.

Garden fruits which have any acrimony in them, and *moſt* ſorts of berries, will produce diarrhoeas. *Arbutnot.*

He thinks *moſt* ſorts of learning flouriſhed among them, and I, that only ſome ſort of learning was kept alive by them. *Pope.*

**MOST.** *adv.* [*maſts*, Gothick; *mæte*, Saxon; *meſt*, Dutch; *meſt*, Daniſh.]

1. The particle noting the ſuperlative degree.

Competency of all other proportions is the *moſt* incentive to induſtry; too little makes men deſperate, and too much careleſs. *Decay of Piety.*

The faculties of the ſupreme ſpirit *moſt* certainly may be enlarged without bounds. *Cheyne's Phil. Principles.*

2. In the greateſt degree.

*Moſt* ſpend their mouths, when what they ſeem to threaten Runs far before them. *Shakeſpeare.*

He for whoſe only fake, Or *moſt* for his, ſuch toils I undertake. *Dryden's Æn.*

Whilſt comprehended under that conſciouſneſs, the little finger is as much a part of itſelf as what is *moſt* ſo. *Locke.*

That which will *moſt* influence their carriage will be the company they converſe with, and the faſhion of thoſe about them. *Locke on Education.*

**MOST.** [*this* is a kind of ſubſtantive, being, according to its ſignification, ſingular or plural.]

1. The greateſt number: in this ſenſe it is plural.

Many of the apoſtles immediate diſciples ſent or carried the books of the four evangeliſts to *moſt* of the churches they had planted. *Addiſon on the Chriſtian Religion.*

Gravitation not being eſſential to matter, ought not to be reckoned among thoſe laws which ariſe from the diſpoſition of bodies, ſuch as *moſt* of the laws of motion are. *Cheyne.*

2. The greateſt value: in this ſenſe ſingular.

The report of this repulſe flying to London, the *moſt* was made of that which was true, and many falſities added. *Hayw.*

A covetous man makes the *moſt* of what he has, and of what he can get, without regard to Providence or Nature. *L'Eſtrange's Fables.*

3. The greateſt degree; the greateſt quantity.

A Spaniard will live in Iriſh ground a quarter of a year, or ſome months at the *moſt*. *Bacon.*

**MOSTICK.** *n. f.* A painter's ſtaff on which he leans his hand when he paints. *Amſ.*

**MOSTLY.** *adv.* [*from moſt*.] For the greateſt part.

This image of God, namely, natural reaſon, if totally or *moſtly* defaced, the right of government doth ceaſe. *Bacon.*

**MOSTWHAT.** *n. f.* [*moſt* and *what*.] For the moſt part. Obſolete.

God's promiſes being the ground of hope, and thoſe promiſes being but ſeldom abſolute, *moſtwhat* conditionate, the Chriſtian grace of hope muſt be proportioned and attemperate to the promiſe; if it exceed that temper and proportion, it becomes a tyranny of hope. *Hammond.*

**MOTION.** *n. f.* Act of moving.

**MOTE.** *n. f.* [*mot*, Saxon; *atomus*, Lat.] A ſmall particle of matter; any thing proverbially little.

You found his *note*, the king your *note* did ſee; But I a beam do find in each of three. *Shakeſpeare.*

The little *notes* in the ſun do ever ſtir, though there be no wind. *Bacon's Nat. Hiſt.* N<sup>o</sup>. 879.

**MOTE** for *might*. Obſolete.

Moſt ugly ſhapes, Such as dame Nature ſelf *note* fear to ſee, Or ſhame, that ever ſhould ſo foul defects From her moſt cunning hand eſcaped be. *Fairy Queen.*

**MOTH.** *n. f.* [*moð*, Saxon.] A ſmall winged inſect that eats cloths and hangings.

All the yarn Penelope ſpun in Ulyſſes's abſence, did but fill Ithaca full of *moths*. *Shakeſpeare's Coriolanus.*

Every ſoldier in the wars ſhould do as every ſick man in his bed, waſh every *moth* out of his conſcience. *Shakeſp.*

He as a rotten thing conſumeth, as a garment that is *moth* eaten. *Job xiii. 28.*

Let *moths* through pages eat their way, Your wars, your loves, your praifes be forgot, And make of all an univerſal blot. *Dryden's Jew.*

**MOTHER.** *n. f.* [*moðon*, Saxon; *moder*, Daniſh; *moeder*, Dutch.]

1. A woman that has born a child; correlative to ſon or daughter.

Let thy *mother* rather feel thy pride, than fear Thy dangerous ſtoutneſs. *Shakeſpeare's Coriolanus.*

Come ſit down every *mother's* ſon, And rehearſe your parts. *Shakeſpeare.*

I had not ſo much of man in me, But all my *mother* came into mine eyes, And gave me up to tears. *Shakeſp. Henry V.*

2. That which has produced any thing.

Alas, poor country! It cannot Be call'd our *mother*, but our grave. *Shakeſpeare.*

The reſemblance of the conſtitution and diet of the inhabitants to thoſe of their *mother* country, occasion a great affinity in the popular diſeaſes. *Arbutnot on Air.*

The ſtrongeſt branch leave for a ſtandard, cutting off the reſt cloſe to the body of the *mother* plant. *Mortimer's Hylb.*

3. That which has preceded in time: as, a *mother* church to chapels.

4. That which requires reverence and obedience.

The good of *mother* church, as well as that of civil ſociety, renders a judicial practice neceſſary. *Ayliffe's Paragon.*

5. Hyſterical paſſion; ſo called, as being imagined peculiar to women.

This ſtopping of the ſtomach might be the *mother*; forſo much as many were troubled with *mother* fits, although few returned to have died of them. *Grant's Bills.*

6. A familiar term of addreſs to an old woman; or to a woman dedicated to religious auſterities.

7. **MOTHER** in *law*. A husband's or wife's mother. *Amſ.*

I am come to ſet at variance the daughter in law againſt the *mother* in law. *Matth. x. 35.*

8. [*Moeder*, Dutch, from *modder*, mud.] A thick ſubſtance concreting in liquors; the lees or ſcum concreting.

If the body be liquid, and not apt to putreſy totally, it will caſt up a *mother*, as the *mothers* of diſtilled waters. *Bacon.*

Potted fowl, and fiſh come in fo faſt, That ere the fiſt is out the ſecond ſinks, And mouldy *mother* gathers on the brinks. *Dryden.*

9. [*More* properly *modder*; *modde*, Dutch.] A young girl. Now totally obſolete.

A ſling for a *mother*, a bow for a boy, A whip for a carter. *Tuſſer's Huſbandry.*

**MOTHER.** *adj.* Had at the birth; native.

For whoſeever *mother* wit or art Could work, he put in proof. *Hubbard's Tale.*

Where did you ſtudy all this goodly ſpeech? —It is extempore, from my *mother* wit. *Shakeſpeare.*

Boccace, living in the ſame age with Chaucer, had the ſame genius, and followed the ſame ſtudies: both writ novels, and each of them cultivated his *mother* tongue. *Dryden.*

Cecilia came, Inventreſs of the vocal frame, Enlarg'd the former narrow bounds, And added length to ſolemn founds, With nature's *mother* wit, and arts unknown before. *Dryd.*

**TO MOTHER.** *v. n.* To gather concretion.

They oint their naked limbs with *mother's* oil. *Dryden.*

**MOTHER** of *pearl*. A kind of coarſe pearl; the ſhell in which pearls are generated.

His mortal blade In ivory ſheath, yearv'd with curious flights, Whoſe hilt was burniſh'd gold, and handle ſtrong Of *mother-pearl*. *Fairy Qu. b. i.*

They were made of onyx, ſometimes of *mother* of *pearl*. *Hakewill on Providence.*

**MOTHERHOOD.** *n. f.* [*from mother*.] The office or character of a mother.

Thou ſhalt ſee the bleſſed mother-maid Exalted more for being good, Than for her intereſt of *motherhood*. *Dante.*

**MOTHERLESS.** *adj.* [*from mother*.] Deſtitute of a mother; orphan of a mother.

I might ſhew you my children, whom the rigour of your juſtice would make complete orphans, being already *motherless*. *Waller's Speech to the Houſe of Commons.*

My concern for the three poor *motherless* children obliges me to give you this advice. *Arbutnot's Hiſt. of J. Bull.*

**MOTHERLY.** *adj.* [*from mother* and *like*.] Belonging to a mother; ſuitable to a mother.

They can owe no leſs than child-like obedience to her that hath more than *motherly* power. *Hooker, b. v.*

They termed her the great mother, for her *motherly* care in cheriſhing her brethren whilſt young. *Raleigh.*

Within her breaſt though calm, her breaſt though pure, *Mothers* cares and fears got head, and rais'd Some troubled thoughts. *Milton's Par. Reg. b. ii.*

When I ſee the *motherly* airs of my little daughters when playing with their puppets, I cannot but flatter myſelf that their husbands and children will be happy in the poſſeſſion of ſuch wives and mothers. *Addiſon's Spect. N<sup>o</sup>. 500.*

Though the was a truly good woman, and had a ſincere *motherly* love for her ſon John, yet there wanted not thoſe who endeavour'd to create a miſunderſtanding between them. *At.*

**MOTHERLY.**

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**MOTHERLY.** *adv.* [*from mother*.] In manner of, mother.

Th' air doth not *motherly* ſit on the earth, To hatch her ſeaſons, and give all things birth. *Donne.*

**MOTHER** of *thyme.* *n. f.* [*ſerpyllum*, Latin.] It hath trailing branches, which are not ſo woody and hard as thoſe of thyme, but in every other reſpect is the ſame. *Miller.*

**MOTHERWORT.** *n. f.* [*cardiaca*, Latin.] A plant.

The flower of the *motherwort* conſiſts of one leaf, and is of the lip kind, whole upper lip is imbricated and much longer than the under one, which is cut into three parts; from the flower-cup ariſes the pointal, fixed like a nail in the hinder part of the flower, attended by four embryos which become angular ſeeds, occupying the flower-cup. *Miller.*

**MOTHERY.** *adj.* [*from mother*.] Concreted; full of concretions; dreggy; ſeculent: uſed of liquors.

**MOTHMULLEIN.** *n. f.* [*blattaria*, Latin.] A plant.

The leaves of the *mothmullain* are placed alternately upon the branches; the cup of the flower conſiſts of one leaf, which is divided into five ſegments; the flower conſiſts of one leaf, which ſpreads open, and is divided alſo into five ſegments: they are produced in long ſpikes, and are ſucceeded by round veſſels, which are divided into cells, and contain many ſmall ſeeds in each. *Miller.*

**MOTHERWORT.** *n. f.* [*moth and wort*.] An herb.

**MOTHERY.** *adj.* [*from moth*.] Full of moths.

His horſe hipp'd with an old *mother* ſaddle, the ſtirrups of no kindred. *Shakeſpeare's Taming of the Shrew.*

**MOTION.** *n. f.* [*motio*, French; *motus*, Latin.]

1. The act of changing place.

Manner of moving the body; port; gait.

Virtue too, as well as vice, is clad In ſiſh and blood ſo well, that Plato had Beheld, what his high fancy once embrac'd, Virtue with colours, ſpeech and motion grac'd. *Waller.*

3. Change of poſture; action.

Encourag'd thus the brought her younglings nigh, Watching the *motions* of her patron's eye. *Dryden.*

4. Tendency of the mind; thought.

Let a good man obey every good *motion* riſing in his heart, knowing that every ſuch *motion* proceeds from God. *South.*

5. Propoſal made.

He compell'd a *motion* of the prodigal ſon, and married a tinker's wife within a mile where my land lies. *Shakeſp.*

What would you with me?

—Your father and my uncle have made *motions*; if it be my luck, ſo; if not, happy man be his dole. *Shakeſpeare.*

If our queen and this young prince agree, I'll join my younger daughter, and my joy, To him forthwith, in holy wedlock bands.

—Yes, I agree, and thank you for your *motion*. *Shakeſp.*

6. Impulſe communicated.

Whether that *motion*, vitality and operation, were by incubation, or how elſe, the manner is only known to God. *Rel.*

Carnality within raiſes all the combustion without: this is the great wheel to which the clock owes it motion. *Dec. of Pi.*

Love awakes the ſleepy vigour of the ſoul, And bruſhing o'er adds *motion* to the pool. *Dryden.*

**TO MOTION.** *v. a.* [*from the noun*.] To propoſe.

**MOTIONLESS.** *adj.* [*from motion*.] Wanting motion; being without motion.

We cannot free the lady that ſits here, In ſtony fetters fixt, and *motionless*. *Milton.*

Ha! Do I dream? Is this my hop'd ſucceſs? I grow a ſtatue, ſtiff and *motionless*. *Dryden's Aurengzebe.*

Should our globe have had a greater ſhare Of this ſtrong force, by which the parts cohere; Things had been bound by ſuch a pow'rful chain, That all would fix'd and *motionless* remain. *Blackmore.*

**MOTIVE.** *adj.* [*motivus*, Latin.]

1. Cauſing motion; having moment.

Shall every *motive* argument uſed in ſuch kind of conferences be made a rule for others ſtill to conclude the like by, concerning all things of like nature, when as probable inducements may lead them to the contrary? *Hooker, b. iv.*

2. Having the power to move; having power to change place; having power to paſs from one to another.

The nerves ſerve for the conveyance of the *motive* faculty from the brain; the ligatures for the ſtrengthening of them, that they may not ſlag in motion. *Wilkins.*

We aſk you whence does *motive* vigour flow? *Blackmore.*

That fancy is eaſily diſproved from the *motive* power of ſouls embodied, and the gradual increaſe of men and animals. *Bentl.*

**MOTIVE.** *n. f.* [*motif*, French.]

1. That which determines the choice; that which incites the action.

Hereof we have no commandment, either in nature or ſcripture, which doth exact them at our hands; yet thoſe *motives* there are in both, which draw moſt effectually our minds unto them. *Hooker, b. ii.*

Why in that rawneſs left you wife and children, Thoſe precious *motives*, thoſe ſtrong knots of love, Without leave-taking? *Shakeſpeare's Macbeth.*

What can be a ſtronger *motive* to a firm truſt on our Maker, than the giving us his ſon to ſuffer for us. *Addiſon.*

The *motive* for continuing in the ſame ſtate is only the preſent ſatisfaction in it; the *motives* to change is always ſome uneaſineſs. *Locke.*

2. Mover.

Heaven brought me up to be my daughter's dower; As it hath fate'd her to be my *motive* And helper to a husband. *Shakeſp. All's well that ends well.*

Her wanton ſpirits look out At every joint, and *motive* of her body. *Shakeſpeare.*

**MOTLEY.** *adj.* [*ſuppoſed* to be corrupted from *medley*, perhaps from *motlike* coloured, ſpotted or variegated like a garden *moth*.] Mingled of various colours.

The *motley* fool thus moral'd on the time, My lungs began to crow like chanticler, That fools ſhould be ſo deep contemplative. *Shakeſpeare.*

They that come to ſee a fellow In a long *motley* coat, guarded with yellow, Will be deceiv'd. *Shakeſpeare's Henry VIII.*

Expence and after-thought, and idle care, And doubts of *motley* hue, and dark deſpair. *Dryden.*

Enquire from whence this *motley* ſtyle Did firſt our Roman purity deſile. *Dryden's Perſus.*

Traulus, of amphibious breed, *Motley* fruit of mungril feed; By the dam from lordlings ſprung, By the fire exhal'd from dung. *Swift.*

**MOTOR.** *n. f.* [*motor*, Fr. from *moveo*, Latin.] A mover.

Thoſe bodies being of a congenious nature do readily receive the impreſſions of their *motor*, and, if not fettered by their gravity, conform themſelves to ſituations, wherein they beſt unite unto their animator. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii.*

**MOTORY.** *adj.* [*motorius*, Latin.] Giving motion.

The bones, were they dry, could not, without great difficulty, yield to the plucks and attractions of the *motory* muscles. *Ray on Creation.*

**MOTTO.** *n. f.* [*motto*, Italian.] A ſentence added to a device, or prefixed to any thing written.

It may be ſaid to be the *motto* of human nature, rather to ſuffer than to die. *L'Eſtrange's Fables.*

We ought to be meek-ſpirited, till we are aſſured of the honeſty of our anceſtors; for covetouſneſs and circumvention make no good *motto* for a coat. *Collier.*

It was the *motto* of a biſhop eminent for his piety and good works in king Charles the ſecond's reign, *Inſervi Deo & ſe-tate*, Serve God and be cheerful. *Addiſon's Freeholder.*

**TO MOVE.** *v. a.* [*moveo*, Latin.]

1. To put out of one place into another; to put in motion.

Sinai itſelf was moved at the preſence of God. *Pſal. lxxviii.*

At this my heart trembleth, and is moved out of his place. *Job xxvii. 1.*

2. To give an impulſe to.

The pretext of piety is but like the hand of a clock, ſet indeed more conſpicuouſly, but directed wholly by the ſecret *movings* of carnality within. *Decay of Piety.*

3. To propoſe; to recommend.

If the firſt conſultation be not ſufficient, the will may *move* a review, and require the underſtanding to inform itſelf better. *Biſhop Bramhall againſt Hobbes.*

They are to be blamed alike, who *move* and who decline war upon particular reſpects. *Hayward's Edw. VI.*